

## **Merit Systems Protection Board**

## **§ 1215.32**

(2) Efforts to obtain direct payment have been, or would most likely be unsuccessful, or the MSPB and the debtor agree to the offset;

(3) Offset is cost effective or has significant deterrent value; and

(4) Offset is best suited to further and protect the Government's interest.

(b) The MSPB may offset a debt owed to another Federal agency from amounts due or payable by the MSPB to the debtor or request another Federal agency to offset a debt owed to the MSPB;

(c) Prior to initiating administrative offset, the MSPB will send the debtor written notice of the following:

(1) The nature and amount of the debt and the agency's intention to collect the debt by offset 30 days from the date the notice was mailed if neither payment nor a satisfactory response is received by that date;

(2) The debtor's right to an opportunity to submit a good faith alternative repayment schedule to inspect and copy agency records pertaining to the debt, to request a review of the determination of indebtedness; and to enter into a written agreement to repay the debt; and

(3) The applicable interest.

(d) The MSPB may effect an administrative offset against a payment to be made to a debtor prior to the completion of the procedures required by paragraph (c) of this section if:

(1) Failure of offset would substantially prejudice the Government's ability to collect the debt; and

(2) The time before the payment is to be made does not reasonably permit completion of those procedures.

### **§ 1215.29 Use of credit reporting agencies.**

(a) The MSPB may report delinquent accounts to credit reporting agencies consistent with the notice requirements contained in the § 1215.26. Individual debtors must be given at least 60 days written notice that the debt is overdue and will be reported to a credit reporting agency.

(b) Debts may be reported to consumer or commercial reporting agencies. Consumer reporting agencies are defined in 31 U.S.C. 3701(a)(3) pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(12) and 31 U.S.C.

3711(f). The MSPB may disclose only an individual's name, address, Social Security number, and the nature, amount, status and history of the debt and the program under which the claim arose.

### **§ 1215.30 Collection services.**

(a) The MSPB may contract for collection services to recover outstanding debts. The MSPB may refer delinquent debts to private collection agencies listed on the schedule compiled by the General Services Administration. In such contracts, the MSPB will retain the authority to resolve disputes, compromise claims, terminate or suspend collection, and refer the matter to the Department of Justice or the General Accounting Office.

(b) The contractor shall be subject to the disclosure provisions of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552a(m)), and to applicable Federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to debt collection practices, including the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. 1692. The contractor shall be strictly accountable for all amounts collected.

(c) The contractor shall be required to provide to the MSPB any data contained in its files relating to the debt account upon agency request or upon returning an account to the MSPB for referral to the Department of Justice for litigation.

### **§ 1215.31 Referral to the Department of Justice or the General Accounting Office.**

Debts over \$600 but less than \$100,000 which the MSPB determines can neither be collected nor otherwise disposed of will be referred for litigation to the United States Attorney in whose judicial district the debtor is located. Claims for amounts exceeding \$100,000 shall be referred for litigation to the Commercial Litigation Branch, Civil Division of the Department of Justice.

### **§ 1215.32 Compromise, suspension and termination.**

(a) The Chairman of the MSPB or his designee may compromise, suspend or terminate the collection of debts where the outstanding principal is not greater than \$20,000. MSPB procedures for

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writing off outstanding accounts are available to the public.

(b) The Chairman of the MSPB may compromise, suspend or terminate collection of debts where the outstanding principal is greater than \$20,000 only with the approval of, or by referral to the United States Attorney or the Department of Justice.

(c) The Chairman of the MSPB will refer to the General Accounting Office (GAO) debts arising from GAO audit exceptions.

### § 1215.33 Omissions not a defense.

Failure to comply with any provisions of this rule may not serve as a defense to any debtor.

## PART 1216—TESTIMONY BY MSPB EMPLOYEES RELATING TO OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND PRODUCTION OF OFFICIAL RECORDS IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 1204(h); 31 U.S.C. 9701.

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## 5 CFR Ch. II (1–1–10 Edition)

### Subpart A—General Provisions

#### § 1216.101 Scope and purpose.

(a) This part establishes policy, assigns responsibilities and prescribes procedures with respect to:

(1) The production or disclosure of official information or records by MSPB employees, advisors, and consultants; and

(2) The testimony of current and former MSPB employees, advisors, and consultants relating to official information, official duties, or the MSPB's record, in connection with federal or state litigation in which the MSPB is not a party.

(b) The MSPB intends this part to:

(1) Conserve the time of MSPB employees for conducting official business;

(2) Minimize the involvement of MSPB employees in issues unrelated to MSPB's mission;

(3) Maintain the impartiality of MSPB employees in disputes between private litigants; and

(4) Protect sensitive, confidential information and the deliberative processes of the MSPB.

(c) In providing for these requirements, the MSPB does not waive the sovereign immunity of the United States.

(d) This part provides guidance for the internal operations of MSPB. It does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, that a party may rely upon in any legal proceeding against the United States.

#### § 1216.102 Applicability.

This part applies to demands and requests to current and former employees, advisors, and consultants for factual or expert testimony relating to official information or official duties or for production of official records or information, in legal proceedings in which the MSPB is not a named party. This part does not apply to:

(a) Demands upon or requests for an MSPB employee to testify as to facts or events that are unrelated to his or her official duties or that are unrelated to the functions of the MSPB;

(b) Demands upon or requests for a former MSPB employee to testify as to matters in which the former employee